

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
FIREBREAK (FEET)
CODE 394
MONTANA CONSERVATION PRACTICE JOB SHEET

FIREBREAK—JOB SHEET

LANDOWNER _____	JOB CLASS _____	DATE _____
LOCATION: _____		FEET: _____

PURPOSE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- ☐ Prevent the spread of wildfire
- ☐ Control prescribed burns

FIREBREAK SPECIFICATIONS

Bare area firebreaks must be completely free of vegetation. Wind and water erosion is controlled.

Where a bare ground firebreak is used in conjunction with a prescribed burn and there is no need to maintain the firebreak in future years. All disturbed areas must be seeded down using specifications satisfying either the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV—Practice Standards and Specifications 342—Critical Area Planting; 550—Range Planting; or, 512—Pasture and Hayland Planting.

- FIREBREAK IS LOCATED AROUND:**
- ☐ Open areas (RANGELAND—CROPLAND—PASTURELAND)
 - ☐ Idle croplands
 - ☐ Forested areas
 - ☐ Improved properties (HOMES, BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES)

FIREBREAK: ☐ Temporary (for _____ months) ☐ Permanent

- TREATMENT:**
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BARE MINERAL SOIL * | <input type="checkbox"/> BURNED VEGETATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHEMICAL BURNBACK | <input type="checkbox"/> GRAZING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MOWING / CLIPPING | <input type="checkbox"/> LOW VEGETATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ | |

* Also see SPECIFICATIONS for water erosion control practices.

1. OPEN AREA FIREBREAKS (RANGELAND—CROPLAND—PASTURELAND)

- LAND COVER TYPE:**
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CROPLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> RANGELAND WITH SHRUBS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PASTURELAND | <input type="checkbox"/> RANGELAND WITHOUT SHRUBS |

HEIGHT OF UNCUT/UNGRAZED VEGETATION ON WINDWARD SIDE: _____ FEET

FIREBREAK WIDTH: (5 FEET MINIMUM) X 5 FEET

For areas where wind erosion is a problem, a barrier of unmowed vegetation five (5) feet wide may be retained on the windward side(s) of each bare ground strip.

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2. IDLE CROPLAND FIREBREAKS

- TYPE: ☐ ONE BARE GROUND STRIP AND A MOWED AREA
☐ TWO BARE GROUND STRIPS AND A MOWED AREA
☐ SINGLE BARE GROUND STRIP

BARE GROUND STRIP WIDTH _____ FEET
(WITH A MOWED AREA) (MINIMUM 50 FEET/MAXIMUM 200 FEET)

MOWED STRIP WIDTH _____ FEET
(MINIMUM 100 FEET/MAXIMUM 150 FEET)

SINGLE BARE GROUND STRIP WIDTH _____ FEET
(MINIMUM 50 FEET/MAXIMUM 200 FEET)

If two bare ground strips are used:

- Then the mowed area will separate the two bare strips.

If one bare ground strip is used:

- Then the mowed area will be located between the bare ground strip and the field.

For areas where wind erosion is a problem:

- A barrier of unmowed vegetation five (5) feet wide may be retained on the windward side(s) of each bare ground strip.

3. FORESTED AREA FIREBREAKS (SHRUB AND FORESTLANDS)

FOREST HABITAT TYPE (Pfister): _____

DOMINANT UNDERSTORY FUEL TYPE: ☐ LOW GRASS ☐ HIGH GRASS ☐ MEDIUM TO TALL SHRUB

DOMINANT ASPECT: N E S W

SLOPE: _____ PERCENT (%)

DOMINANT HEIGHT OF UNDERSTORY VEGETATION: _____ FEET

FIREBREAK WIDTH: (12 FEET MINIMUM) X 5 FEET

Firebreaks must be cleared of flammable materials. Clear snags, saplings, downed logs, and other woody debris, upwind from the edge of the firebreak a distance equal to the height of the trees.

4. HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION (NEXT TO STRUCTURES)

PERCENT SLOPE

- ON PROPERTY: ☐ 0 TO 20% FLAT TO GENTLY SLOPING
☐ 21% TO 40% MODERATELY STEEP
☐ +40% VERY STEEP

VEGETATION TYPE

- ON PROPERTY: ☐ GRASS
☐ SHRUBS
☐ TREES

4. HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION continued (NEXT TO STRUCTURES)

DEFENSIBLE SPACE DISTANCE _____ FEET
(CHART 1 MT SPEC.)

SURVIVABLE SPACE DISTANCE _____ FEET
(CHART 1 MT SPEC.)

DEAD FUEL TYPES

- ☐ STANDING DEAD TREE
- ☐ DOWN DEAD TREE
- ☐ DEAD SHRUBS
- ☐ DRIED GRASSES AND WILD FLOWERS
- ☐ DEAD NEEDLES ON GROUND
- ☐ DEAD NEEDLES NOT ON GROUND
- ☐ FIREWOOD AND OTHER COMBUSTIBLES

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

- ☐ REMOVE ALL STANDING DEAD TREES
- ☐ REMOVE ALL DEAD DOWN TREES NOT IMBEDDED
- ☐ REMOVE ALL DEAD SHRUBS
- ☐ REMOVE ALL DRIED OUT GRASSES/WILD FLOWERS
- ☐ REDUCE NEEDLES TO A DEPTH OF 2 INCHES
- ☐ REMOVE ALL DEAD BRANCHES, NEEDLES TO HEIGHT 15 FEET
- ☐ REMOVE ALL DEBRIS IN RAIN GUTTERS
- ☐ LOCATE FIREWOOD / COMBUSTIBLES 30 FEET FROM HOUSE

SEPARATION DISTANCES BETWEEN CANOPIES (SHRUBS)

(CHART 3 MT SPEC.)

PERCENT SLOPE	SHRUB HEIGHT (X)	SEPARATION DISTANCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 20%	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ FEET	2 X _____ FEET
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 TO 40%	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ FEET	4 X _____ FEET
<input type="checkbox"/> +40%	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ FEET	6 X _____ FEET

SEPARATION DISTANCES BETWEEN CANOPIES (TREES)

(CHART 4 MT SPEC.)

PERCENT SLOPE	SEPARATION DISTANCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 20%	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 FEET
<input type="checkbox"/> 21 TO 40%	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 FEET
<input type="checkbox"/> +40%	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 FEET

SEPARATION DISTANCES—LADDER FUELS

(CHART 5 MT SPEC.)

GROUND FUEL HEIGHT (X) — _____ FEET

PRUNE TO 3 X — _____ FEET

LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN SPACE (SURROUND HOUSE)

☐ — 30 FEET

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WATER BARS

LOCATION	ROCK FRAGMENTS (%) – TOP 12" OF SOIL	SLOPE (%)	SPACING

VEGETATIVE SEEDING

LOCATION	SPECIES	SEEDING RATE (PLS)	ACRES	TOTAL SEED

JOB SKETCH

Attached Plan Map ☐ YES ☐ NO

ATTACHED SPECIFICATIONS**342–Critical Area Planting**☐ YES☐ NO**512–Pasture and Hayland Planting**☐ YES☐ NO**550–Range Seeding**☐ YES☐ NO**ADDITIONAL NOTES**

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- Noxious weeds, by state law, must be controlled.
- Inspect and maintain erosion control practices annually to insure proper functioning.
- Inspect firebreaks periodically to insure that vegetation is controlled at the most opportune time.
- Mow or graze vegetative firebreaks to avoid a build-up of dead litter and to control weeds.
- Inspect for and remove weedy materials such as dead limbs and blown down trees from the firebreak.
- Access by vehicles or people will be controlled to prevent damage to the firebreak.
- Bare ground firebreaks which are no longer needed will be stabilized or reseeded to control weeds and erosion.
- Burned, grazed, and mowed/clipped strips will be reclipped if the vegetation regrows and achieves more than approximately eight (8) inches in height.

APPROVALS:_____
NRCS Conservationist_____
JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY_____
Date_____
Producer_____
Date

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INSTALLATION CERTIFICATION

Land Cover Type: _____

Type Firebreak Installed: _____

Duration of Firebreak Installed: _____

Firebreak Width Installed: _____

Numbers of Water Bars Installed: _____

Spacing Between Water Bars Installed: _____

Species Seeded: _____

Seeding Rate (PLS): _____

Acres Seeded: _____

Defensible Space Distance Treated: _____ FEET

Survivable Space Distance Treated: _____ FEET

Dead Fuels Treated: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Separation Distance (SHRUBS) Treated: _____ FEET

Separation Distance (TREES) Treated: _____ FEET

Separation Distance (LADDER FUELS—Pruned Height): _____ FEET

Lean, Clean, and Green Space Treated: _____ FEET

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

I hereby certify that this practice has been installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.

NRCS Conservationist

JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Date

Date